

1. We have already received a \$6-per-hour cut for certain IHS services even before these mitigation cuts were proposed, resulting in The Arc's having to cut salaries to our already underpaid direct care staff. As a result, new employees will no longer earn \$13-per-hour; they will earn \$12.
2. The 2.5% so-called "cut" to Day and Employment programs comes ALONG WITH implementation – contrary to the Legislature's wishes and contrary to directives from the Legislature to the Department of Developmental Services – of a fee-for-service based reimbursement system. This is not a 2.5% cut at all. It is a cut that will be MINIMALLY 2.5% but will ALMOST CERTAINLY be significantly greater than that. Because this formulation will be based on real attendance levels for people with disabilities whose medical history prohibits regular attendance, providers like The Arc of New London County, who traditionally have received clients with greater needs when others turned them away, are now faced with turning away those in greatest need for our services. It is important that all of you understand that those hurt by this unauthorized fee-for-service system implementation WILL BE the most vulnerable citizens of this state. This deficit mitigation plan, and its shameful implementation by the Department of Developmental Services, marks not only a sad moment for The Arc of New London County but a sad day for every citizen in Connecticut whose life has been, is, or may be touched by intellectual disability.
3. Support services such as transportation have been and will continue to be eliminated because The Arc already performs services at 1/3 the cost that the Department of Development Services provides them. There is no "fat". We can only eliminate services, meaning parents and families will not have any option but to stop working to care for loved ones since private providers increasingly are being nickled and dimed in ways that prevent us from doing so for them.

The net result is that this so-called deficit mitigation plan will create economic hardship and have exactly the opposite impact intended. In other words, it will slow economic recovery. If families cannot work due to lost supports, the results will trickle in all directions. People with disabilities will lose, yes, but so will their parents, their local grocery store, the direct care staff that provides supports and everyone else in these individuals' economic wake.